

# Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

CEO: Mr T B Tapping

Date: 21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are keeping well in this challenging period.

As you are probably aware, the guidance from Government / the Department for Education is that Schools are to consider widening provision from that which is currently in place for key workers and vulnerable children. In Primary Schools the additional provision is to be considered for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, with an aspiration that all children in Primary Schools return for at least 1 month prior to the summer break. At Secondary level, it is suggested that students from Year 10 and Year 12 receive some face to face education prior to the summer break.

As a result of COVID19, all of our lives have experienced significant disruption in the past few weeks. This disruption has undoubtedly presented significant difficulties and anxieties for us all. In our Schools, our routines have been disrupted. The opportunities for us to socialise with our friends and neighbours has been restricted by lockdown and social distancing. External examinations are not taking place. We have had to work to adapt to the “new normal”, and, to look to develop “home school learning”, whilst most importantly striving to ensure that students are safeguarded and the well being of staff is supported.

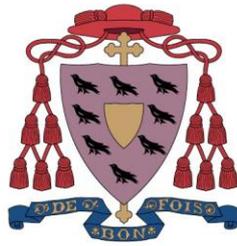
The Headteachers and staff within our schools eagerly anticipate the day when, not just the students identified by Government, but all of our students and staff can return to School, enjoy time with their friends and go back to being the safe, happy, learning environments that we all miss so much.

The Headteachers in our Schools will be sharing with you our draft plans, which identify our proposals as to how the schools propose to partially re open and most importantly, explain the controls we are looking to put in place to keep you, your families, our students and staff as safe as is possible given the current circumstances. As part of this process, our Schools are completing detailed risk assessments; which will inform Directors decisions around whether our individual Schools will open.

**Bishop Chadwick  
Catholic Education Trust**

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The Government will make a decision on the 28th May 2020, as to whether, or not, their five key tests have been met on a national level regarding potential School re opening on the 1st June 2020. A key element of that decision will be if infection rates are continuing to decline nationally. You may also however be aware that infection rates currently vary significantly throughout the regions in England. Our region currently has some of the highest infection rates in the UK, this will be a key factor in reaching a decision.

The Directors and myself will meet with our CEO, Headteachers and Chair of Governors from all of our Schools on the 2nd June 2020. In this meeting, we will consider the recommendations of our Headteachers and Governing bodies regarding whether or not it is safe for our Schools to re-open. The Directors of Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust (formally Northern Saints Catholic Education Trust) will make a decision regarding potential reopening at that point. Any decisions reached will be based upon the risk assessments undertaken by each School. Please rest assured that in reaching decisions, the safety of our School community is paramount.

I will write to you again after our meeting on the 2nd June 2020 to inform you of the decisions that have been reached and why. The schools will remain open for the children of key workers and vulnerable children.

In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

**Daniel O Mahoney**  
Chair of Directors

**Bishop Chadwick**  
**Catholic Education Trust**

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